

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61**

(By Delegates Iaquina, Fragale, Lane, Walters, Anderson, Andes,  
Armstead, Ashley, Barill, Barker, Boggs, Border, Brown, Butcher,  
D. Campbell, T. Campbell, Canterbury, Carmichael, Craig, Doyle,  
Ellem, Ellington, Ennis, Evans, Ferns, Ferro, Fleischauer,  
Frazier, Gearheart, Givens, Guthrie, Hall, Hamilton, Hatfield,  
Howell, Hunt, Ireland, Lawrence, Mahan, Manypenny, Marshall,  
Martin, Morgan, Moye, Nelson, O'Neal, Pasdon, Paxton, Perry, L.  
Phillips, R. Phillips, Pino, D. Poling, M. Poling, Poore,  
Reynolds, Rodighiero, Romine, Rowan, Savilla, Shaver, Sigler,  
Skaff, Snuffer, Sobonya, Staggers, Stephens, Storch, Stowers,  
Sumner, Swartzmiller, Talbott, Varner, Walker, Wells, White and  
Williams)

Requesting the Division of Highways to name the bridge on U.S.  
Route 119, one and one-half miles north of Clendenin at the  
Thorofare Road Junction, number 20-59-0.01, in Clendenin,  
Kanawha County, West Virginia, the "Smith Brothers Bridge."  
WHEREAS, Five Smith brothers from Kanawha County, West Virginia  
served in the United States Army during WWII. The sons of Ralph  
and Maggie Smith of Clendenin their service to their nation began  
in April 1941, when Wilton Russell Smith, born December 1, 1915,

1 was inducted, serving with the 150 Infantry thirty-five months  
2 patrol at the Panama Canal. He received his honorable discharge  
3 October 4, 1945. Floyd Jacob Smith, born February 14, 1920,  
4 entered service in April, 1942 with the Second Infantry Division,  
5 serving in Ireland, England and France. He received his honorable  
6 discharge December 3, 1945. Fred Ervin Smith, born January 24,  
7 1922, entered service in October 1942 and headed for the South  
8 Pacific with the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He received his honorable discharge  
9 December 31, 1945. Ralph Burton Smith, Jr., born January 3, 1911,  
10 entered the service in December, 1942 and was assigned to the 786  
11 Tank Battalion serving in England, Belgium, Germany and France. He  
12 received his honorable discharge October 30, 1945. David Grant  
13 Smith, born August 29, 1907, entered the service in 1944 and served  
14 as an MP guarding German prisoners in Alabama. He received his  
15 honorable discharge February 5, 1945. Brother Fred received a  
16 wound in France and awarded the Purple Heart. He and the other  
17 brothers received ribbons and medals commensurate with the theaters  
18 they served. Wilton's son, Bill, and Ralph's son Danny served  
19 during the Vietnam War; and

20       WHEREAS, The Smith Brothers, who are still living and range in  
21 ages from 67 years to 82 years, all retired from Union Carbide with  
22 over one hundred fifty years total service; and

23       WHEREAS, The Smith Brothers willing, gallantly and proudly  
24 served their country during WWII and have given much to their

1 community and state. And fortunately, unlike many young men who  
2 served during this period of our history, they returned home  
3 safely, for which their family and community is grateful. The  
4 patriotic act of five brothers entering the Armed Forces of the  
5 United States in a time of world war, while not unique, is  
6 remarkable and their service to protecting the principles upon  
7 which this country was built and their service to their community  
8 and state should not go unnoticed; therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

10 That the Division of Highways is hereby requested to name the  
11 bridge on U.S. Route 119, one and one-half miles north of Clendenin  
12 at the Thorofare Road Junction, number 20-59-0.01, in Clendenin,  
13 Kanawha County, West Virginia, the "Smith Brothers Bridge."; and,  
14 be it

15 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is requested  
16 to have made and be placed, signs identifying the bridge as the  
17 "Smith Brothers Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates  
19 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the five Smith  
20 Brothers and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.